

[By Samuel Rubinfeld](#)

A House Democrat is introducing legislation that would ban convicted violators of U.S. foreign bribery law from doing business with the federal government.

Rep. Peter Welch (D., Vt.) introduced the legislation Wednesday. It would debar federal contractors convicted of violating the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act, severing the contracts 30 days after all possible appeals of a conviction are exhausted.

"People are getting more frustrated and fed up with the waste of money on some of these projects in Iraq and Afghanistan, and that's bipartisan," Welch said in an interview, referring to the chances it will pass this Congress.

He introduced similar legislation in 2010, and it passed the House but the Senate didn't act on the bill before the end of that Congress.

"The circumstances now, I think, are more heightened about protecting taxpayers, so I would hope the Senate would act on this," he said.

At the time, the bill was hailed by good-government groups.

This version, co-sponsored with Rep. Jason Chaffetz (R., Utah), includes a provision that exempts a violator from debarment if the head of a federal agency deems the offense as having been self-disclosed.

"It provides flexibility for companies to volunteer to report," Welch said.

Read the bill below:

[Overseas Contractor Reform Act](#)